

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 SS-20 SPC-03 L-03 H-03

PRS-01 INR-10 SCI-06 SAM-01 INRE-00 DRC-01 IO-14

RSC-01 /078 W

----- 108739

O R 271745Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 310

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 1848

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STATE FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, BE

SUBJECT: ENERGY: ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP MEETING

APRIL 3-4: JAPANESE VIEWS

1. SUMMARY: JAPANESE EMBASSY ENERGY OFFICER PROVIDED EMBOFF ON MARCH 27 WITH RUNDOWN ON JAPANESE GOVERNMENT VIEWS TOWARD UPCOMING ECG MEETINGS. IN RE AGENDA FOR APRIL 3-4 MEETING GOJ WILL SUBMIT TWO ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: (1) PREPARATION FOR HOLDING CONSULTATION BETWEEN CONSUMING AND PRODUCING COUNTRIES, (2) EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS ON UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON RAW MATERIALS. IN RESPECT TO FOURTH ECG MEETING (APRIL 18-19): GOJ FINDS IT " DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT SPONSORSHIP" DUE TO LACK OF TIME FOR PREPARATION; IF ECG "UNANIMOUSLY WISHES IT" GOJ WILL HOST SOME FUTURE MEETING; AND GOJ BELIEVES FOURTH ECG MEETING SHOULD BE HELD IN EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

2. JAPANESE FIRST SECRETARY SUGIYAMA (COMBINED MISSION
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TO EC AND BELGIUM) CALLED ON EMBOFF MORNING MARCH 27 TO

DISCUSS ENERGY PROBLEMS. SUGIYAMA, WHO HANDLES ENERGY MATTERS AT EMBASSY AND WAS MEMBER OF JAPANESE DELEGATION TO MARCH 13-14 ECG MEETING, CAREFULLY OUTLINED GOJ PREFERRED SCENARIO FOR COMING ECG MEETINGS (APRIL 3-4 AND 18-19). HOWEVER, HE TELEPHONED EMBOFF LATER IN DAY WITH SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT INFORMATION WHICH HE READ (TRANSLATING FROM JAPANESE) FROM A TELEGRAM OBVIOUSLY JUST OFF THE WIRE.

3. ACCORDING TO SUGIYAMA, GOJ WISHES TO INCLUDE ON AGENDA FOR APRIL 3-4 MEETING FOLLOWING ITEMS: DISCUSSION ON PERPEARATION FOR HOLDING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN CONSUMING AND PRODUCING COUNTRIES; EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS ON UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON RAW MATERIALS.

4. IN REGARD TO FOURTH ECG MEETING (APRIL 18-19), GOJ HOLDS FOLLOWING VIEWS:

(A) GOJ "FINDS IT DIFFICULT" TO HOST APRIL 18-19 MEETING IN TOKYO "DUE TO LACK OF PREPARATION".

(B) IF THE ECG "UNANIMOUSLY WISHES IT", GOJ "WILL NOT OPPOSE" HOLDING A FUTURE ECG MEETING IN TOKYO AND IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN BRUSSELS ON APRIL 3-4.

(C) GOJ HAS NO POINION AS TO BEST PLACE TO HOLD APRIL 18-19 MEETING. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF SCHEDULED MID-APRIL MEETING OF OECD NEW STYLE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN PARIS, GOJ CONSIDERS IT APPROPRIATE TO HOLD LATE APRIL ECG MEETING "SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE".

5. SUGIYAMA HAS TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO PASS ABOVE INFORMATION TO GOB BUT AMBASSADOR OCKRENT AND HIS DEPUTY AMBASSADOR DENIS ARE BOTH IN PARIS. JAPANESE MISSION TO EOCD ATTEMPTING REACH OCKRENT WHILE JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CALL ON DEPARTMENT.

6. ABOVE OUTLINE OF GOJ POSITION RATHER DIFFERENT FROM THAT SUGIYAMA PRESENTED TO EMBOFF IN MORNING APPOINTMENT (FOR WHICH HE HAD TELEPHONED ON PREVIOUS DAY). IN HIS FIRST
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RUN-THROUGH OF GOJ VIEWS, SUGIYAMA SAID JAPANESE BELIEVED ECG SHOULD TAKE DECISION AT APRIL 3-4 MEETING TO APPROACH OIL PRODUCERS TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL ENERGY SITUATION IN MULTILATERAL CONTEXT. WITH THAT MANDATE IN HAND, ONE OR MORE ECG MEMBERS SHOULD BE DELEGATED TO MAKE INITIAL INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH OPEC COUNTRIES DURING COURSE OF APRIL 8 UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON RAW MATERIALS. MEANWIRE, WITH MANDATE AUTHORIZED, JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

WILL OFFER TO HOST APRIL 18-19 ECG MEETING IN JAPAN.
(IMPLICATION WAS STRONG THAT JAPANESE OFFER TO HOST MEETING
COMPLETELY LINKED TO DECISION TO MEET WITH PRODUCERS.)
APRIL 18-19 EC MEETING, ON BASIS PRELIMINARY CONTACTS
TAKEN AT UNGA SPECIAL SESSION, COULD THEN ADDRESS
ITSELF TO SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED PRODUCER-CONSUMER
CONSULTATIONS. TIME FRAME OPEN BUT SUGIYAMA TALKED ABOUT MOVING
FORWARD QUICKLY; CERTAINLY ON LATER THAN JULY.

7. IN MORNING SESSION, SUGIYAMA ALSO RAISED PROBLEM
FACING THE NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK AS COUNTRIES STILL
FORMALLY UNDER EMBARGO BY OPEC (BUT AT SAME TIME MEMBERS
(EC) OR PARTICIPANTS (ECG) OF GROUPS CONTEMPLATING FORMAL
NEGOTIATIONS WITH OPEC. HE FELT THAT DUTCH AND DANES
MIGHT WELL RAISE PROBLEM AT APRIL 3-4 ECG MEETING. ON
OTHER HAND, THEY COULD DECIDE FINESSE QUESTION IN ECG
CONTEXT (AS OPPOSED TO EC) AS ECG IS NOT "FORMAL,
PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION".

8. ALSO IN MORNING SESSION, SUGIYAMA EMPHASIZED SEVERAL
TIMES THAT LIFTING OF OIL EMBARGO AGAINST U.S. PROVIDES
OPPORTUNITY FOR OPENING CONSULTATIONS WITH PRODUCERS.
THIS OPPORTUNITY, HE IMPLIED, IS NECESSARILY OF A
FLEETING NATURE AND MUST BE SEIZED. JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO INDIVIDUAL BILATERAL PRODUCER-
CONSUMER DEALS (WHICH IN ANY CASE DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE
WORKED OUT VERY WELL FOR THOSE WHO TRIED TO ORGANIZE THEM,
E.G. THE FRENCH) AND SUPPORTS A MULTILATERAL APPROACH.
PRIMARY PURPOSE OF MULTILATERAL ACTIVITY ON THE CONSUMER
SIDE, HOWEVER, IS TO MOVE TO A WIDER FORUM INVOLVING PRODUCERS.
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